

EXTENSIONS OF REMARKS

IN RECOGNITION OF THE 125TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE FOUNDING OF AGUDAS ACHIM

HON. AARON SCHOCK

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, November 4, 2011

Mr. SCHOCK. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in recognition of the 125th Anniversary of Congregation Agudas Achim in Peoria, Illinois.

Agudas Achim was founded in 1886 by a group of 18 settlers in Peoria as the first Traditional Orthodox Jewish Congregation in that part of the country. In the following decades, Agudas Achim grew to be the largest Traditional Jewish Congregation in Illinois outside of Chicago.

Since its founding, Agudas Achim has had a physical presence in many parts of the City of Peoria, constantly expanding its facilities to meet the needs of its growing congregation. From the South Side to North Peoria, Agudas Achim has put down deep roots in the city.

Throughout its long history, Agudas Achim has weathered many challenges and changing times, but it continues in its mission to serve the Traditional Jewish community in Central Illinois through assembly, study, and prayer. I congratulate the leaders and members of the congregation on this significant anniversary.

CONGRATULATING THE MARIAN HIGH SCHOOL GIRLS' SOCCER TEAM

HON. JOE DONNELLY

OF INDIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, November 4, 2011

Mr. DONNELLY of Indiana. Mr. Speaker, today I rise to congratulate the Marian High School girls' soccer team of Mishawaka, Indiana. The Knights competed in the Indiana High School Athletic Association state championship on October 29, 2011 at Kuntz Stadium in Indianapolis, with a tough 1 to 0 loss to first place Providence in a shootout following two overtime periods.

The Knights worked tirelessly this season, garnering an 18–3–1 record with half of their victories captured with more than five goals. Leading scorer, Junior Gabby Veldman, scored thirty-two goals during the season. A testament to the character of the Marian team, Senior Lauren Garatoni received the Mental Attitude Award from the Indiana High School Athletic Association.

The Marian team consisted of twenty-two young women, including: Liz Naquin, Brittany Payne, Denise (D.J.) Veldman, Gabby Lucchese, Lauren Wade, Tracy Scott, Shannon Hendricks, Madeline LaDue, Jen Smith, Josie Cressy, Gabby Veldman, Melissa Cunningham, Lauren Garatoni, Carson Ludwig, Claire Griffith, Maggie Wanecke, Maggie Hartnagel, Bridget Doyle, Cassie Sloma,

Emma Capannari, Makaela Douglas, and Devon Smith.

I also congratulate the dedicated coaching staff of Head Coach Djamel Charlat and Assistant Coaches Erin Shindledecker and Jim Douglas, who helped guide the Knights to the state championship game. The coaches developed a team with depth, talent, a strong defense, a high scoring offense, and most importantly, good sportsmanship.

I offer my congratulations to the members of the girls' soccer team of Marian High School, the coaching staff, the school administration and community for their accomplishments this season including their second place finish in the IHSAA 1–A State Soccer Tournament.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. PETER J. VISCLOSKY

OF INDIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, November 4, 2011

Mr. VISCLOSKY. Mr. Speaker, on November 3, 2011, I was absent from the House and missed rollcall vote 825.

Had I been present for rollcall 825, on passage of H.R. 2930, a measure to amend the securities laws to provide for registration exemptions for certain crowdfunded securities, and for other purposes, I would have voted "no."

RECOGNIZING 185TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE FOUNDING OF SCHUYLKILL TOWNSHIP, CHESTER COUNTY

HON. JIM GERLACH

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, November 4, 2011

Mr. GERLACH. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Schuylkill Township, Chester County on the occasion of the 185th anniversary of its founding.

The first settlers to move into Schuylkill Township were Dutch, Swedish, and Welsh; many of whom were Quakers. They arrived in 1713 with James Anderson being the first European settler with his family to arrive. He had immigrated from the Isle of Skye in Scotland in 1707. His home and farmstead, "Anderson Place," still stands. Son Patrick was the first child born in the township. He was to serve as a captain in the Revolutionary War and later was promoted to Major. The Anderson family is buried in Anderson Cemetery on Valley Park Road. The last Anderson to reside at the farmstead was in 1955. William Moore arrived and built Moore Hall, which is a National Register home, as well as the Bull Tavern visited by General Washington.

The Friends Quaker Meeting is historic and was active in the abolitionist movement with the Underground Railroad. Corner Stores at

the intersection of White Horse and Valley Forge Roads was the first and major commercial center in this area and continues today. Valley Forge Road was the major route between the western forges and the City of Philadelphia and continues as the Valley Forge Historic Corridor through Schuylkill Township.

Once a farm community, Schuylkill Township today seeks to preserve its agricultural landscape. The Open Space Commission is working to preserve open space with the Pickering Preserve and the purchase of Valley Park where meadow lands are being preserved. Preservation efforts are also underway for the Ticket Pavilion of the old Valley Park Trolley Park, which once operated to the delight of its residents.

Mr. Speaker, in light of the 185th anniversary of the founding of Schuylkill Township, I ask that my colleagues join me today in celebrating this momentous occasion and recognizing the Township's rich history and economic and social contributions to the quality of life enjoyed by its outstanding citizens and all of Chester County.

HONORING MR. PHILIP MELVIN UPON THE OCCASION OF HIS RETIREMENT

HON. DANIEL E. LUNGREN

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, November 4, 2011

Mr. DANIEL E. LUNGREN of California. Mr. Speaker, I rise to highlight the career of Mr. Philip Melvin (Phil) for his thirty years of distinguished service to the United States House of Representatives. Phil has served this great institution as a valued employee of House Information Resources (HIR) in the Office of the Chief Administrative Officer (CAO).

Phil began his tenure with the House in 1981 as a Mainframe Computer Operator. Diligently rising through the ranks, Phil was eventually selected to be the Lead Computer Operator. His duties entailed bringing the House's systems online, recognizing and diagnosing hardware and software problems, maintaining quality control of printed output, and training new Operations Staff. Mainframe operations were the heart of the House's emerging Information Technology Infrastructure.

Phil's technical expertise and delivery of mainframe operational services led to his appointment as a Mainframe Systems Programmer, whereby he provided the system tools and computer resources required to host the House's mission critical internal applications on the mainframe.

In the early 90's, Phil was selected to support a Distributed Systems Support Project, which required him to support the multiple e-mail systems then in use by the House. Phil was responsible for managing the main system that allowed Members to send/receive mail from several different e-mail systems. In

• This "bullet" symbol identifies statements or insertions which are not spoken by a Member of the Senate on the floor.

Matter set in this typeface indicates words inserted or appended, rather than spoken, by a Member of the House on the floor.

1995, he became part of the team that successfully merged all of the House's e-mail systems into one enterprise service. He then became the lead in implementing the Enterprise Fax system for the House which allowed Member offices to receive and send their faxes via e-mail. Phil has helped make the House e-mail and Enterprise Fax systems the reliable services the House relies on today. Continuing on the leading edge of technology, Phil's most recent duties were instrumental in the House's successful evolution to server virtualization.

Phil's knowledge, experience, dedication, mentoring and consistent outstanding performance in his daily tasks have set a fine example in providing superior customer service and earned him the respect and admiration of his co-workers.

On behalf of the entire House community, we extend congratulations to Philip Melvin for his many years of dedication, outstanding contributions and service to the United States House of Representatives.

We wish him many wonderful years in fulfilling his retirement dreams.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. GUS M. BILIRAKIS

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, November 4, 2011

Mr. BILIRAKIS. Mr. Speaker, on Thursday, November 3rd, I missed rollcall votes 821 and 822, for unavoidable reasons. Had I been present, I would have voted as follows:

Rollcall vote No. 821: "yea" (Ordering the previous question on H. Res. 453, the rule providing for consideration of both H.R. 2940—Access to Capital for Job Creators Act and H.R. 2930—Entrepreneur Access to Capital Act)

Rollcall vote No. 822: "yea" (Dicks Motion to instruct conferees)

RECOGNIZING MT. PLEASANT MISSIONARY BAPTIST CHURCH'S 150TH ANNIVERSARY

HON. SANFORD D. BISHOP, JR.

OF GEORGIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, November 4, 2011

Mr. BISHOP of Georgia. Mr. Speaker, it is my great honor to extend a heartfelt congratulations to the congregation, administration, and supporters of Mt. Pleasant Missionary Baptist Church of Leesburg, Georgia as this fine institution celebrates 150 years of providing spiritual guidance and dedicated community service to the residents of Lee County, Georgia and individuals throughout the Albany, Georgia metropolitan area. This tenured religious institution will commemorate its 150th anniversary on Sunday, November 6, 2011 at a service ceremony at 143 Mt. Pleasant Road in Leesburg.

This upcoming anniversary ceremony will enable church members, local dignitaries, community leaders and other individuals throughout Georgia to pay tribute to a house of worship that has positively influenced many lives and served as a sanctuary for those in need of spiritual counseling.

Mt. Pleasant Missionary Baptist Church traces its historical roots back to our nation's dark days of slavery. The Church was founded in 1861 by a band of baptized believers in Christ on property deeded to them by slave owners.

Some of the church's early pastors, including Reverend Dough Johnson, Ben London, Gain Byrd, Tom Johnson and Reverend Gene Murray, worked endlessly to establish Mt. Pleasant as a stable institution that tended to the spiritual needs of its congregation and provided assistance to other churches in need of resources. Early in its existence, Mt. Pleasant graciously allowed members of Old Piney Grove Church to share its facilities and bury their members in Mt. Pleasant's cemetery until construction of Old Piney Grove's building was completed.

Throughout the 19th, 20th and 21st centuries, Mt. Pleasant's edifice has gone through numerous transformations and renovations. In 1890, the first frame building was constructed on the eastern edge of the church's current location on Mt. Pleasant Road in Leesburg, Georgia. This building was built on a wood frame with four windows on each side and two doors at the front.

In the late 1930s, under the leadership of Reverend Wallace Davis, Mt. Pleasant's church building was renovated. After the 1930s renovation, the church building also served as a school house.

During the 1960s and 1970s, Reverend P.S. Sparks oversaw the construction of a new church building that included pews and pulpit furniture. In the early 1980s, under the direction of Reverend W.D. Slaughter, a new dining hall was added to Mt. Pleasant's campus.

Over the years, Mt. Pleasant has remained a steadfast community leader and supporter of several humanitarian initiatives that have assisted those individuals most in need. Mt. Pleasant's Mission Outreach Ministry donates food and clothing to low-income communities throughout the Albany, Georgia metropolitan area. The church is also associated with charity efforts sponsored by the Christian outreach group, Samaritan's Purse.

Mr. Speaker, today I ask my colleagues to join me in paying tribute to Mt. Pleasant Missionary Baptist Church in Leesburg, Georgia for all the many things this institution has done and will continue to do to positively impact the lives of those in Southwest Georgia.

HONORING TEXANS FOR LIFE COALITION PRESIDENT KYLEEN WRIGHT

HON. KENNY MARCHANT

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, November 4, 2011

Mr. MARCHANT. Mr. Speaker, it gives me great pleasure to rise today to honor Texans for Life Coalition President Kyleen Wright for her decades of work to protect life. Kyleen has been a leader and a fixture in the Texas pro-life movement for years, and her dedication to the unborn was critical to the recent passage of the sonogram law in the Texas Legislature. This law expands informed consent to include a visual presentation via sonogram.

Since 1975, Kyleen has been a tireless pro-life advocate. Beginning in her freshman year

of high school, Kyleen has spent the last 36 years influencing and instituting policies conducive to strong families. Her work has culminated in significant policy changes in Texas, including the sonogram law and an abstinence education program in 1995. It is also thanks in part to Kyleen's work that the incidence of teen abortions has dropped by half since 1995.

The pro-life cause in Texas has many leaders, but few are as effective in the state capital as Kyleen. Whether it's working with the legislature or talking on the airwaves, Kyleen is leading Texas and America to a brighter and better future. I ask all of my colleagues to join me in recognizing Kyleen Wright for a career of hard work to protect the unborn and their families.

RECOGNIZING NORMAN VUTZ, SCHUYLKILL TOWNSHIP'S 2011 OUTSTANDING CITIZEN OF THE YEAR

HON. JIM GERLACH

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, November 4, 2011

Mr. GERLACH. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate Norman Vutz on the occasion of being honored as Schuylkill Township's 2011 Outstanding Citizen of the Year.

A longtime Township resident, Norman moved to Schuylkill Township in 1978 and served 28 years as a member of its Board of Supervisors. One of Norman's greatest accomplishments was helping to facilitate the Township's transition from utilizing an independent contractor for roads to establishing its own Roads Department. With an excellent and dedicated Roadmaster, the Township is saving money, is better managed, and is providing more efficient service to its residents.

One of his favorite aspects of serving on the Board of Supervisors is working with the talented and dedicated Township staff and helping area citizens. These are the folks that have provided Norman such great satisfaction during his long years of public service.

Mr. Speaker, in light of his exemplary years of service to Schuylkill Township, I ask that my colleagues join me today in recognizing Norman Vutz on the occasion of his being honored as 2011 Outstanding Citizen of the Year.

INTRODUCTION OF THE STEM EDUCATION INNOVATION ACT

HON. MICHAEL M. HONDA

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, November 4, 2011

Mr. HONDA. Mr. Speaker, I rise to articulate a vision for American education and a platform for developing a strong competitive workforce. Today I am introducing the STEM Education Innovation Act, which does exactly this by raising the profile of state and federal science, technology, engineering, and mathematics initiatives.

By promoting and highlighting science, technology, engineering, and mathematics education, we will enable America to regain its